

Appl. No. 09/663,593

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of 02 December 2003. Claims 6-9 are pending in the application; Claims 6 and 8 have been rejected, and Claim 9 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base Claim.

Independent Claims 6 and 8 have been amended; Claim 9 has been cancelled; and Claims 10-15 have been added.

No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments set forth herein place the Claims in condition for allowance, and therefore Applicants further request entry of these After Final amendments.

In view of the amendments above and remarks below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination.

About The Invention

The present invention relates generally to integrated circuits and structures therein, and more particularly relates to structures for reducing or preventing damage caused by local current concentration during a junction breakdown event.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that Claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base Claim and any intervening Claims.

Rejections under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 6 has been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Isohata, et al., (JP 10321842 A).

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Independent Claim 6 has been amended to recite the limitations of allowable Claim 9, and Claim 9 has been cancelled.

Applicants respectfully submit that, at least in view of the amendment to Claim 6, the rejection under 35 USC 102(b) has been overcome.

Rejections under 35 USC 103(a)

Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Isohata, et al., (JP 10321842 A) in view of Wondrak, et al., (US Patent 5,578,859).

Independent Claim 8 has been amended to recite the limitations of allowable Claim 9, and Claim 9 has been cancelled.

Applicants respectfully submit that, at least in view of the amendment to Claim 6, the rejection under 35 USC 103(a) has been overcome.

New Claims 10-15

New Claims 10-15 are directed to various aspects of the present invention including the electrical connection of the first and second regions, a deep via electrically coupled to the second region, an insulated gate above portions of the first and second regions, and various substrate configurations. Claims 10-14 depend from amended Claim 6, and Claim 15 depends from amended Claim 8. Support for these Claims can generally be found throughout the specification, and can more particularly be found at page 6 lines 7-9, 14-18, and 31-32; and in Fig. 4.

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Conclusion

All of the rejections in the outstanding Office Action of 07 October 2003 have been responded to, and Applicants respectfully submit that the pending Claims 21 and 23-37 are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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